

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1-22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) A system ~~Apparatus~~ for treating patients suffering from a ~~specified~~ neuropsychiatric disorder, comprising

~~a pulse generator sanctioned by government authority for implantation in a patient together with electrode means to stimulate a selected cranial nerve of the patient with~~ capable of generating a predetermined sequence of electrical ~~impulses from said pulse generator pulses, and~~

at least one electrode electrically coupled to the pulse generator, said electrode being implanted in the patient's body and coupled to a vagus nerve of the patient ~~applied to the selected cranial nerve~~ at a location in a range from about two to about three inches above or below the patient's diaphragm, for ameliorating symptoms of the ~~specified~~ neuropsychiatric disorder in the patient.

24. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said pulse generator is programmable to enable physician programming of ~~the electrical and timing~~ a plurality of parameters defining ~~of~~ said sequence of electrical ~~impulses~~ pulses.

25. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the ~~selected cranial nerve is the vagus nerve, and said electrode means comprises~~ at least one ~~nerve~~ electrode ~~for implantation on~~ is attached to the patient's vagus nerve for direct stimulation thereof ~~at said location~~.

26. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said at least one electrode ~~means~~ comprises a pair of ~~nerve~~ electrodes for implantation ~~of~~ on a respective one of ~~said~~

~~pair on~~ the left and right branches of the patient's vagus nerve for direct ~~bilateral~~ stimulation thereof at said location.

27. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said at least one electrode ~~means comprises at least one electrode for implantation internally~~ is attached to a portion of the patient's ~~nervous system~~ body remote from the ~~selected cranial~~ vagus nerve to indirectly stimulate the vagus nerve ~~selected cranial nerve in the vicinity of said location~~.

28. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 23, including activation means associated with the pulse generator for enabling patient activation of the pulse generator to stimulate the vagus nerve ~~selected cranial nerve in the vicinity of said location~~.

29. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said ~~specified~~ neuropsychiatric disorder is selected from the group consisting of schizophrenia, depression, borderline personality disorder, ~~or~~ and related ~~disorder~~ disorders.

30. (currently amended) Apparatus for treating patients suffering from a neuropsychiatric disorder selected from the group consisting of ~~among~~ schizophrenia, depression, borderline personality disorder, and ~~or~~ related ~~disorder~~ disorders, said apparatus comprising

a pulse generator ~~approved by a government agency of competent authority to be implanted with~~ capable of generating an electrical signal; and

at least one ~~interconnected nerve~~ electrode implanted in a patient to treat the neuropsychiatric disorder by applying a ~~programmed sequence of the~~ electrical ~~impulses~~ signal generated by said pulse generator to a ~~branch of the patient's vagus nerve, via said electrode~~ wherein said electrode is coupled to said pulse generator and is attached to ~~implanted on~~ said vagus nerve at a location in a range from about two to about three inches above or below the patient's diaphragm, for relieving symptoms of the neuropsychiatric disorder.

31. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said pulse generator is adapted to be programmed by an attending physician to provide electrical ~~and timing~~ parameters ~~of said impulses~~ defining said electrical signal.

32. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said ~~nerve~~ at least one electrode is connected to an electrical lead of sufficient length to enable said ~~at least one nerve~~ electrode to be ~~implanted on~~ attached to at least one of the left and right branches of said vagus nerve at said location.

33. (new) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said system further comprises a programming unit coupled to said pulse generator for programming a plurality of parameters to define said electrical signal.

34. (new) A system for treating a patient having a neuropsychiatric disorder comprising:
a pulse generator capable of generating an electrical signal;
at least one implanted electrode, coupled to the pulse generator and attached to a vagus nerve of the patient at a location below the patient's diaphragm, for applying said electrical signal to said vagus nerve to treat said neuropsychiatric disorder; and
a programming unit for programming said pulse generator to define said electrical signal.

35. (new) The system of claim 34 wherein said pulse generator is implanted in the body of the patient.

36. (new) The system of claim 34 wherein said pulse generator is external to the body of the patient and is wirelessly coupled to said at least one electrode.

37. (new) The system of claim 34 wherein said programming unit is capable of programming at least one parameter selected from the group consisting of current magnitude, frequency, pulse width, on-time and off-time.